

Season Extension Workshop

Light frost 28-31 degrees

Moderate frost 24-28 degrees

Severe frost below 24

6 ½ foot lengths of wire or 4 ½ foot PVC every four feet

Venting—keep a thermometer in a small white slatted box that sits on the soil in the center of the bed. Aim for a 70 degree temperature in spring, 60 in late fall and winter, and 65 in early fall. Err on the side of cooler rather than warmer, but make sure to close them up in time to keep them from getting too cold overnight.

Only harvest when the temperature is above freezing.



Agribon+ AG-19 Floating Row Cover

Provides frost protection down to 28°F



Agribon+ AG-50 Row Cover

approx. 24°F/-4°C frost protection



Agribon+ AG-30

Provides up to 26°F/-3°C frost protection



Agribon+ AG-70

approx. 24°F/-4°C and below frost protection



Clear Greenhouse Film

Our last 10 hour day of the year will be November 19.

Key Planting Dates for Winter Harvest Crops

CROP	Start Transplants	Direct Seed	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27	September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24	October 1	October 8	October 15	October 22	October 29	November 5	November 12	Last 10-Hour Day
TIER 1	Kale (Full)	•	15	14	13													
	Tatsoi (Full)	•							9	8								
	Spinach (Full)	•	•							8	7							
	Claytonia (Full)		•							8	7							
	Kale (Baby)		•								7	6						
	Spinach (Baby)		•									6	5					
	Tatsoi (Baby)		•									6	5					
TIER 2	Pac Choi (Full)	•						10	9	8								
	Cilantro (Full)		•					10	9	8								
	Wild Arugula (Full)		•						9	8								
	Mizuna (Full)		•							8	7							
	Salad Arugula (Full)		•							8	7							
	Cress (Later Maturing Var.)		•									6	5					
	Salad Arugula (Baby)		•									6	5					
	Cress (Early Maturing Var.)		•									6	5	4				
	Mizuna (Baby)		•										5	4				

Key Planting Dates for Winter Harvest Crops

CROP	Start Transplants	Direct Seed	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27	September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24	October 1	October 8	October 15	October 22	October 29	November 5	November 12	Last 10-Hour Day
TIER 3	Carrots	•		13	12													
	Bunching Onions (Scallions)	•		13	12													
	Lettuce, Salanova (Full)	•					11	10										
	Swiss Chard (Full)	•	•					10	9									
	Turnips		•					10	9									
	Lettuce (Baby)		•								7	6						
	Swiss Chard (Baby)		•								7	6						
	Radishes		•								7	6	5					
OTHER	Mâche		•					9	8									
	Minutina (Full)		•					9	8									

Use our chart as a scheduling guide, staggering your plantings for a seamless winter harvest. Keep in mind that the planting dates are back-scheduled from the last 10-hour day at your latitude. The number of weeks before the Persephone Period is calculated for each listed crop. The crops are grouped to reflect their reliability for winter production, with Tier 1 being easiest.

Careful scheduling allows you to control growth incrementally by planting at least two or three sowings at 7- to 10-day intervals. This will allow for crops to mature at different times and provide a longer harvest period. With well-timed, staggered plantings you can create a smooth transition from one harvest to the next for a steady supply through the winter. Multiple seedings also help you identify the best seeding dates for specific crops, and spread out the risk of crop failure due to unfavorable weather conditions.

Key Planting Dates for Overwintering for Spring Harvest

	CROP	Start Transplants	Direct Seed	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27	September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24	October 1	October 8	October 15	October 22	October 29	November 5	November 12	Last 10-Hour Day	
TIER 1	Claytonia (Full)		•								8	7								
	Kale (Full)	•										7	6							
	Spinach (Full/Baby)		•													3	2	1		
	Kale (Baby)		•													3	2	1		
TIER 2	Wild Arugula (Full/Baby)		•							9	8									
	Salad Arugula (Full/Baby)		•										6	5						
TIER 3																				
	Carrots		•			13	12					7	6							
OTHER																				
	Onions (Spring Onions)	•			14	13														
	Bunching Onions (Scallions)		•				12	11												

Use our Overwintering Planting Chart to time your plantings for earliest spring harvest. Keep in mind that the planting dates are back-scheduled from the last 10-hour day at your latitude. The number of weeks before the Persephone Period is calculated for each listed crop. The crops are grouped, to reflect their reliability for overwintering success, with Tier 1 being easiest.

**Excerpted with permission, from Eliot Coleman's
Winter Harvest Handbook**

Cover with row cover before frost. Overwintered lettuce and spinach will give you outdoor crops to sell up to a month earlier than the best you can do with spring transplants. It is important to choose varieties that are hardy enough to put up with the stress of overwintering.



Once real winter weather threatens (late November/early December) we add a sheet of 10-foot-wide clear plastic over the row cover to make the tunnels more snow proof. To stiffen the structure against wind and snow load, it's important to tighten the plastic. We do that by driving a stake into the ground 4 feet from the last hoop at each end of the low tunnel and tying a rope to each end of the plastic. We then pull as tightly as we can on both ends and secure the ropes to the stakes. That makes the plastic cover taut lengthwise. We then shift the sandbags on top of the edges of the plastic to make it taut from side to side...



Using sandbags to secure the edges is much faster and much less work than burying the edges. With sandbags, the covers can blow off in a really strong wind, but once winter arrives and everything freezes to the ground, nothing is going to move.